



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Lee et al.

Serial No.: 09/181,311

Filed: October 28, 1998

For: *In vitro Differentiation of Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells and Reagents Related Thereto*

Group Art Unit: 1644

Examiner: Turner, S.

Docket No.: HUV-046.01 (former APV-382.01)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated March 17, 2000 in the above-referenced application, Applicants hereby provisionally elect with traverse to prosecute the claims of Group II, i.e., claims 7-9 and 12-21. Applicants contend that no undue burden is placed upon the Examiner to search all Groups as listed in the Restriction Requirement.

Prior to substantive examination of the application, please amend the application as follows:

**In the claims:**

Please amend claims 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 18, 20, and 21 as follows:

7. (Amended) A method for identifying a gene which [regulates proliferation or migration of a] is up- or down-regulated during the differentiation of neural crest cells into smooth muscle cells, comprising
- (i) culturing immortalized neural crest cells under culture conditions wherein SM22 $\alpha$  gene expression is induced for a time period sufficient for the neural crest cells to begin differentiation into smooth muscle cells;